

prisoners will either be paid as restitution to victims or be deposited into the Federal Crime Victims' Fund. I am pleased that the President recently signed into law the Kyl-Johnson Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act.

South Dakota is one of 38 states that have implemented state-wide prisoner health care copayment programs. The Department of Justice supported extending this prisoner health care copayment program to federal prisoners in an attempt to reduce unnecessary medical procedures and ensure that adequate health care services are available for prisoners who need them.

My interest in the prisoner health care copayment issue came from discussions I had in South Dakota with a number of law enforcement officials and U.S. Marshal Lyle Swenson about the equitable treatment between pre-sentencing federal prisoners housed in county jails and the county prisoners residing in those same facilities. Currently, county prisoners in South Dakota are subject to state and local laws allowing the collection of a health care copayment, while Marshals Service prisoners are not, thereby allowing federal prisoners to abuse health care resources at great cost to state and local law enforcement.

As our legislation moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate last year, we had the opportunity to work on specific concerns raised by South Dakota law enforcement officials and the U.S. Marshals Service. Senator KYL was willing to incorporate my language into the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act that allows state and local facilities to collect health care copayment fees when housing pre-sentencing federal prisoners.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

I am pleased the President recently signed into law a reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. The legislation is part of a larger bill that also includes "Aimee's Law." I've supported Aimee's Law in the past and am pleased this provision will help crack down on states that fail to incarcerate criminals convicted of murder, rape, and dangerous sexual offenses for long prison terms.

I've been involved in the campaign to end domestic violence in our communities dating back to 1983 when I introduced legislation in the South Dakota State Legislature to use marriage license fees to help fund domestic abuse shelters. In 1994, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I helped get the original Violence Against Women Act passed into law. Since the passage of this important bill, South Dakota has received over \$8 million in funding for battered women's shelters and family violence prevention and services.

In South Dakota alone, approximately 15,000 victims of domestic violence were provided assistance last year, and over 40 domestic violence shelters and outreach centers in the

state received funding through the Violence Against Women Act. Shelters, victims' service providers, and counseling centers in South Dakota rely heavily on these funds to provide assistance to these women and children.

The original Violence Against Women Act increased penalties for repeat sex offenders, established mandatory restitution to victims of domestic violence, codified much of our existing laws on rape, and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women. I am pleased to support efforts this year that strengthen these laws, expand them to include stalking on the internet and via the mail, and provide local law enforcement with additional resources to combat domestic violence in their communities.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

While I am pleased that Congress continued to debate Juvenile Crime legislation this session, I am disappointed that Senate and House Leadership will allow Congress to adjourn without enacting important juvenile crime prevention programs into law. The leadership of several of America's law enforcement organizations, along with prosecutors and crime survivors, have consistently endorsed quality child care and after-school programs as a primary way to dramatically and immediately reduce crime.

I will continue to support significant increases in funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, after-school programs and the Child Care and Development Block Grant program in large part because of the potential these programs have to reduce juvenile crime and domestic violence nationwide.

COMBATTING METHAMPHETAMINE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A number of South Dakota law enforcement officials and local leaders have told me that meth abuse has become one of their top crime-fighting priorities in the past few years. Meth abuse threatens our young people, law enforcement officers, and our environment. Once again, I led efforts to enhance punishments of meth operators, mandate restitution for meth lab clean-up, and increase funding for treatment and prevention efforts. I also joined Senator TOM HARKIN (D-IA) in successfully securing emergency funding for meth lab clean-up efforts in South Dakota and nationwide.

There is much to be done to bring crime rates in our state down, and to help every South Dakotan feel safe in their home and community. I look forward to continuing my work with state and local leaders, law enforcement agencies in South Dakota, and my Republican and Democratic Senate colleagues in Washington. Together, by focusing on community crime prevention and by investing in our kids, I believe we can make progress in addressing the unique needs of our South Dakota communities.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT F. SINK

• Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, history gives us many examples of men and women who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve our great country. In our military, there have always been men and women who were not satisfied with maintaining the status quo, but who, instead, strove to make our armed forces the world's finest and the most powerful. One such individual was the late Colonel Robert F. Sink, commander of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Toccoa, Georgia.

The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment was constituted on July 1, 1942 in the Army of the United States, activated July 20, 1942 at Camp General Robert Toombs at Toccoa, Georgia, attached to the 101st Airborne Division on June 1, 1943 and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division on March 1, 1945. The camp located at Currahee Mountain in Toccoa was soon renamed Camp Toccoa and was chosen because of its rugged terrain. The 506th Regiment selected the symbol of the Currahee Mountain as its Coat of Arms and "Currahee" became its battle cry.

It was here, in Toccoa, that Col. Sink initiated his rigorous training program called "Muscle College" and set many of the standards for the paratrooper basic training program of the 101st Airborne Division. Because of Col. Sink's efforts, the 506th Parachute Infantry established records never before reached by any military unit in the world. Furthermore, Airborne infantrymen around the nation recognized the "Currahee trained" men from Camp Toccoa as a cut above their peers in strength and performance.

Col. Sink led his 506th Regiment into combat on D-Day at Normandy, then to Holland, Bastogne, France, Germany, and all the way to Hitler's "Eagle Nest." By the end of World War II, the 506th had received several coveted awards and decorations. The courageous service of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment was due, in no small measure, to the tireless efforts of Colonel Robert F. Sink, a true American hero. In honor of this great man, the Currahee Mountain Road, which changed the boys of the famous "Currahee" Regiment into men, will be fittingly renamed the "Col. Robert F. Sink Memorial Trail."

I hope my colleagues will join with me today in honoring this great man and his groundbreaking work on behalf of our nation's security. For those under Colonel Sink's tutelage who will travel back to Toccoa for this important reunion and celebration, I wish you the best and thank you for your service. Finally, special thanks should be extended to State Representative Mary Jeanette Jamieson for her work on this project. It was a pleasure to be involved in such a worthy effort. ●